

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A network management server connected to a network, comprising:
 - recording means for recording information ~~pertinent to~~ identifying an information processing apparatus and information of a user of said information processing apparatus, said ~~information includes at least identification information of said information processing apparatus,~~
 - wherein said information processing apparatus receives a television broadcast and establishes a connection to said network management server over said network;
 - receiving means for receiving identification information sent from said information processing apparatus, when said information processing apparatus is connected via said network, the identification information used to identify said information processing apparatus;
 - verifying means for verifying whether said identification information received by said receiving means has already been recorded by said recording means;
 - controlling means for controlling said information processing apparatus over said network based on verified results by said verifying means; and
 - transmitting means for transmitting to said information processing apparatus initial sign-up information for sign-up processing for said information processing apparatus, including a protocol file stating rules for utilizing Internet services and an access point

information file identifying a geographical location through which the user of said information processing apparatus may gain access to said Internet services and for transmitting to said information processing apparatus a home page established by said network management server;

wherein said transmitting means transmits results of said verification performed by said verifying means to said information processing apparatus; and

wherein said verifying means, upon determining that said identification information has already been recorded by said recording means, further verifies whether sign-up processing for said information processing apparatus has previously been executed and, if so, said transmitting means transmits an error message to said information processing apparatus.

2. (Previously Presented) The network management server according to claim 1, wherein said identification information is a serial number of said information processing apparatus.

3. (Previously Presented) The network management server according to claim 1, wherein said controlling means causes said information processing apparatus to execute first setting processing upon verification that said identification information received by said receiving means has already been recorded in said recording means,

said controlling means causing said information processing apparatus to execute second setting processing upon verification that said identification information received by said receiving means has not been recorded in said recording means.

4. (Previously Presented) The network management server according to claim 3, wherein said first setting processing and the second setting processing represent setting processing for said information processing apparatus to utilize said network.

5. (Previously Presented) The network management server according to claim 4, wherein said controlling means sends an address on said network of a server used for connecting said information apparatus to said network, to said information processing apparatus, and sets the address so sent, as the information necessary for said information processing apparatus to utilize said network.

6. (Previously Presented) The network management server according to claim 4, wherein said recording means further records the inherent information for specifying a user of said information processing apparatus;

said controlling means requests transmission of said inherent information to said information processing apparatus upon verification that said identification information received by said receiving means has been recorded in said recording means.

7. (Previously Presented) The network management server according to claim 6, wherein said inherent information includes a password.

8. (Previously Presented) The network management server according to claim 4, wherein upon verification that said identification information received by said receiving means has not been recorded on said recording means, said controlling means requests said

information processing apparatus to transmit the information on a user utilizing said information processing apparatus.

9. (Currently Amended) An information processing method for a network management server connected to a network, comprising:

a recording controlling step of controlling recording of information pertinent to identifying an information processing apparatus and information of a user of said information processing apparatus, ~~said information includes at least identification information of said information processing apparatus;~~

wherein said information processing apparatus receives a television broadcast and establishes a connection to said network management server over said network;

a receiving step of receiving identification information sent from said information processing apparatus, when said information processing apparatus is connected via said network, the identification information used to identify said information processing apparatus;

a verifying step of verifying whether said identification information received in said receiving step has already been recorded in said recording controlling step;

a controlling step of controlling said information processing apparatus over said network based on results of said verifying step; and

a transmitting step of transmitting to said information processing apparatus initial sign-up information for sign-up processing for said information processing apparatus, including a protocol file stating rules for utilizing Internet services and an access point information file identifying a geographical location through which the user of said information processing

apparatus may gain access to said Internet services and for transmitting to said information processing apparatus a home page established by said network management server;

wherein said transmitting step transmits results of said verification performed by said verifying step to said information processing apparatus; and

wherein said verifying step, upon determining that said identification information has already been recorded by said recording controlling step, further verifies whether sign-up processing for said information processing apparatus has previously been executed and, if so, said transmitting means transmits an error message to said information processing apparatus.

10. (Currently Amended) A recording medium having recorded thereon a computer-readable program for controlling a network management server connected to a network, said program including:

a recording controlling step of controlling recording of information ~~pertinent to identifying an information processing apparatus and information of a user of said information processing apparatus;~~ identifying an information processing apparatus and information of a user of said information processing apparatus; ~~said information includes at least identification information of said information processing apparatus;~~

wherein said information processing apparatus receives a television broadcast and establishes a connection to said network management server over said network;

a receiving step of receiving the identification information sent from said information processing apparatus when said information processing apparatus is connected via said network, the identification information used to identify said information processing apparatus;

a verifying step of verifying whether said identification information received by the receiving step has already been recorded in said recording controlling step;

a controlling step of controlling said information processing apparatus over said network based on results by the verifying step; and

a transmitting step of transmitting to said information processing apparatus initial sign-up information for sign-up processing for said information processing apparatus, including a protocol file stating rules for utilizing Internet services and an access point information file identifying a geographical location through which the user of said information processing apparatus may gain access to said Internet services and for transmitting to said information processing apparatus a home page established by said network management server;

wherein said transmitting step transmits results of said verification performed by said verifying step to said information processing apparatus; and

wherein said verifying step, upon determining that said identification information has already been recorded by said recording controlling step, further verifies whether sign-up processing for said information processing apparatus has previously been executed and, if so, said transmitting means transmits an error message to said information processing apparatus.

11. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus connected to a network, comprising:

storage means for storing at least identification information used to identify said information processing apparatus;

establishing means for establishing a connection to a network management server over said network;

receiving means for receiving a television broadcast;

transmission means for transmitting said identification information stored in said storage means over said network to a said network management server;

receiving means for receiving control information transmitted from said network management server over said network, based on said identification information transmitted from said transmission means, said control information including initial sign-up information for sign-up processing for said information processing apparatus, a protocol file stating rules for utilizing Internet services and an access point information file identifying a geographical location through which the user of said information processing apparatus may gain access to said Internet services and said receiving means receiving a home page established by said network management server; and

setting means for setting information necessary for utilizing said network based on said control information received by said receiving means,

wherein said information processing apparatus selects from ~~an~~ said access point information file a preset access point geographically proximate to said information processing apparatus;

wherein said receiving means receives results of a verification of said identification information performed by said network management server and wherein said network management server, upon determining that said identification information has already been recorded in said network management server, further verifies whether sign-up processing for said information processing apparatus has previously been executed and, if so, said receiving means receives an error message from said network management server.

12. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said setting means sets information necessary for exploiting said network in a

first mode when said control information received by said receiving means is first control information;

said setting means setting information necessary for exploiting said network in a second mode when said control information received by said receiving means is second control information.

13. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said setting means executes first setting processing when identification information transmitted by said transmission means has already been recorded in said network management server;

said setting means executing second setting processing when identification information transmitted by said transmission means has already been recorded in said network management server.

14. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said first setting processing and said second setting processing represent information setting processing necessary for said information processing apparatus to utilize said network.

15. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said setting means sets an address on said network of a server connecting said information processing apparatus to said network, said address received by said receiving means.

16. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said network management server stores inherent information used for specifying a user of said information processing apparatus;

said setting means transmitting said inherent information to said network management server if said identification information transmitted by said transmission means has been recorded in said network management server.

17. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said inherent information includes a password.

18. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said setting means transmits information pertinent to a user employing said information processing apparatus to said network management server if said identification information transmitted by said transmission means has not been recorded in said network management server.

19. (Currently Amended) An information processing method for an information processing apparatus connected to a network, comprising:

a storage controlling step of controlling storage of identification information used to identify said information processing apparatus ;

an establishing step of establishing a connection to a network management server over said network;

a receiving step of receiving a television broadcast;

a transmission step of transmitting said identification information stored during said storage controlling step over said network to a said network management server, wherein ~~said identification information is used to identify said information processing apparatus;~~

a receiving step of receiving control information transmitted from said network management server over said network, based on said identification information transmitted by processing in said transmission step, said control information including initial sign-up information for sign-up processing for said information processing apparatus, a protocol file stating rules for utilizing Internet services and an access point information file identifying a geographical location through which the user of said information processing apparatus may gain access to said Internet services and said receiving means receiving a home page established by said network management server; and

a setting step of setting information necessary for utilizing said network based on said control information received by processing in said receiving step,

wherein said information processing apparatus selects from ~~an~~ said access point information file a preset access point geographically proximate to said information processing apparatus;

wherein said receiving step receives results of a verification of said identification information performed by said network management server and wherein said network management server, upon determining that said identification information has already been recorded in said network management server, further verifies whether sign-up processing for said

information processing apparatus has previously been executed and, if so, an error message is received from said network management server.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium adapted to store a computer program for controlling an information processing apparatus connected to a network, said computer program including:

a storage controlling step of controlling storage of identification information used to identify said information processing apparatus;

an establishing step of establishing a connection to a network management server over said network;

a receiving step of receiving a television broadcast;

a transmission step of transmitting said identification information stored during said storage controlling step over said network to a said network management server, ~~wherein said identification information is used to identify said information processing apparatus;~~

a receiving step of receiving control information transmitted from said network management server over said network, based on said identification information transmitted by processing in said transmission step, said control information including initial sign-up information for sign-up processing for said information processing apparatus, a protocol file stating rules for utilizing Internet services and an access point information file identifying a geographical location through which the user of said information processing apparatus may gain access to said Internet services and said receiving means receiving a home page established by said network management server; and

a setting step of setting information necessary for utilizing said network based on said control information received by processing in said receiving step,

wherein said information processing apparatus selects from ~~an~~ said access point information file a preset access point geographically proximate to said information processing apparatus;

wherein said receiving step receives results of a verification of said identification information performed by said network management server and wherein said network management server, upon determining that said identification information has already been recorded in said network management server, further verifies whether sign-up processing for said information processing apparatus has previously been executed and, if so, an error message is received from said network management server.